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NEW STUDY REVEALS 273 KILLED IN DILI MASSACRE

Lisbon, 3 September. A new report just released in Lisbon points to a much higher death toll at the 12 November 1991 massacre of civilians in Dili: 273 killed, 255 disappeared and 376 wounded is the finding of several months of investigation carried out in East Timor by a wide range of East Timorese elements and smuggled out of East Timor. The report provides the names and age of all the persons killed, missing and wounded.

Most disturbing, almost half of the killed are 21 years or younger and almost all are below the age of 30. "This is deliberate killing of the young people. My God, I am horrified at these findings. I know them to be completely accurate. That's why I'm even more horrified. Mostly are young people. The Indonesians always claimed that only the older generation are anti-integration. But now they are killing all our young people because they too oppose integration", Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta, overseas spokesperson for the East Timorese Resistance, said in Lisbon today.

The release of this study coincides with the airing in Lisbon of a home-made video interview of five East Timorese survivors and witnesses of the Dili massacre who claim that more than "200 people were killed" and they saw more than 100 corpses being dumped into the sea. The film was smuggled out of East Timor and is now being shown on Portuguese television.

Mr. Ramos-Horta claims that the most likely new "Governor" of East Timor appointed by Jakarta, Mr. Abilio Osorio Soares, is a "common criminal who personally tortured and murdered innocent civilians. If his appointment is confirmed, we will use all diplomatic and legal means to have him arrested if he ever sets foot in the US or in an European country. He is even worse than Pablo Escobar. The Indonesian authorities by appointing this man as their new puppet Governor are showing how lacking in support they are. They cannot even find someone who like Mario Carrascalao has some air of decency. Now they have to resort to a true common criminal".

"The situation in East Timor will deteriorate even further, unrest will spread, abuses by the military will escalate. The West and ^{Ja}pan now bear enormous responsibility because they are the ones who finance the regime to the tune of US\$5 billion a year", Mr. Ramos-Horta said. */ Japan*

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NOTE TO EDITORS: MR. JOSE RAMOS-HORTA is available for further information on 351.1.932 7770.